



DIOCESAN PRESS SERVICE

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CROSSROAD PUBLISHING COMPANY

NEW YORK -- Werner Mark Linz, President and Publisher of the Episcopal Church's Seabury Press since 1973, is leaving that post to establish the Crossroad Publishing Company, a new and independent religious publishing house.

Crossroad has acquired from Seabury a backlist of 200 titles and will continue substantially the international publishing programs developed originally under the Herder & Herder imprint and carried on by Mr. Linz at the Seabury Press, including works by Karl Rahner, Edward Schillebeeckx, and Karol Wojtyla (Pope John Paul II). The Crossroad Publishing Company and Seabury will cooperate closely, and Crossroad books will be distributed initially through Seabury's Service Center.

Mr. Linz announced that "The new Crossroad Publishing Company will be guided by a continued commitment to excellence. Crossroad will publish a first list of 100 new books starting in January, 1981, including a major encyclopedia of religion and society, a new international line of religious paperbacks, a multi-volume biblical commentary based on contemporary literary criticism, and a comprehensive program in religious education."

Commenting on Mr. Linz's years at the Seabury Press, John P. R. Budlong, Chairman of Seabury's Board of Trustees, stated: "Mr. Linz has brought extraordinary professionalism in publishing and a high quality of editorial, marketing, and business skills to the Seabury Press. Under his direction, Seabury has come to be recognized as a leading publisher of religious books with greatly expanded distribution services."

Mr. Linz made the following comment: "My seven-and-a-half years at the Seabury Press have been professionally challenging and rewarding, and I am grateful to Seabury for the opportunity to contribute significantly to the life and mission of the people of the Church. I have concluded, however, that there is now really nothing more I could do for the Episcopal Church's official publishing house except to offer good wishes for its new management and support for the consolidation of various publishing activities in this Church."

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Mr. Linz assumed leadership of the Seabury Press in 1973, having previously held the position of Publisher and General Manager of the Herder & Herder Division of the McGraw-Hill Book Company, and prior to that various executive positions with Herder & Herder commencing in 1959.

Under the direction of Mr. Linz, the Seabury Press has achieved substantial profitable growth, publishing approximately one hundred new books annually including general trade books and reference works, educational and professional publications, children's books, textbooks, and paperbacks.

Mr. Linz is also Chairman of the Board of the Continuum Publishing Corporation, which continues the Herder & Herder/Seabury Press general publishing programs under the management of Michael Leach, a former Vice President and Senior Editor of the Seabury Press.

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